

# Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge

## *Public Use Regulations 2015-2016*

Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge is one of over 550 National Wildlife Refuges. The refuge was established to provide essential habitat for migratory birds. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administers the Refuge System and is responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing the Nation's fish and wildlife populations and their habitats for the continuing benefit of people.

The provisions listed below supplement the general regulations which govern public use on a National Wildlife Refuge as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. When permitted, hunting, fishing and other public uses will be in accordance with applicable State laws unless otherwise listed.

### **General Provisions and Access Regulations**

#### *Access*

By law, National Wildlife Refuges are closed to all recreational activities unless expressly permitted. Hunting, fishing, and certain other recreational uses are permitted on most areas of the refuge. The refuge is a Day Use Area Only. The refuge is closed from legal sunset to legal sunrise with the exception of legal hunting activities.

We allow hunters to access the refuge no more than two hours before legal sunrise to no more than two hours after legal sunset, with the exception of raccoon and opossum hunters. We allow access to raccoon and opossum hunters from legal sunset to one hour before legal sunrise. Contact the Refuge Manager for current regulations and authorized activities.

**Hatchie  
National Wildlife Refuge**  
6772 Highway 76 South  
Stanton, TN 38069  
Office hours: 7:30 am - 4:00 pm  
Monday-Friday  
731/772 0501, ext. 227  
<http://hatchie.fws.gov>

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
1 800/344 WILD

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#### *Vehicles*

Only legally licensed vehicles are allowed on maintained refuge roads and parking areas. ATV's, UTV's, and off-road motorized vehicles are prohibited. Parking as to block travel through refuge access roads, gates, and trails is prohibited. Vehicles may be parked along side refuge roads in a manner that will not interfere with the normal flow of traffic. The use of parking lots/areas is encouraged. Airboats, Jet Skies, and Hovercraft are prohibited.

#### *Mobility Impaired Access*

Most refuges are universally accessible to the disabled.

Persons with disabilities are encouraged to participate in refuge hunts and other activities. Contact the Refuge Manager for guidelines and regulations.

#### *Roads*

Roads may be closed at any time due to adverse weather conditions or management needs. Vehicles must remain on established roads as indicated on the map on this leaflet. Vehicles may be parked alongside open roads in a manner that will not interfere with the normal flow of traffic. Avoid driving on refuge roads during wet conditions as damage to the roads will result.

#### *Alcohol*

The use or possession of alcoholic beverages is prohibited while on refuge lands and waters.

#### *Closed Areas*

Designated areas are closed to hunting, fishing, and all public access during fall and winter months to provide resource protection (see map for specific locations and dates of closures). Other areas may be closed for special management or safety reasons. All refuge access is prohibited from legal sunset to sunrise unless specifically authorized by the Refuge Manager.

#### *Camping and Fires*

Camping and fires are prohibited on Hatchie NWR.

#### *Swimming*

Swimming is prohibited on Hatchie NWR.

#### *Dog/Pet(s)*

Dogs are permitted for small game and migratory bird hunting. All dogs used for hunting on Hatchie NWR are required to wear a collar displaying the owners name, address, and telephone number. All other dogs/pet(s) must be kept on a leash while on Hatchie NWR.

#### *Refuge/ Cultural Resources*

All government property including natural, historic, and archaeological features are protected by Federal Law. Searching for or removal of objects of antiquity or other value is strictly prohibited, including but not limited to, antler sheds and mushrooms.

#### *Monitoring Devices*

The use of electronic or photographic trail monitoring devices on Hatchie NWR is prohibited.

### **Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge General Hunting Permit 2015 - 2016**

Hunters must have a signed permit in their possession while participating in authorized refuge hunts. Quota hunt permits are issued separately. Applicable licenses and stamps are required.

I have read and understand these refuge regulations.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Hunter signature (valid only when signed)

It is the hunter's responsibility to comply with all Regulations contained in this brochure, the 50 CFR Regulations, and State Regulations.

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### *Boats*

Boats used for any activity must be removed from the refuge daily. All State boating regulations apply. Nonmotorized boats and boats with electric trolling motors only. The use of gas or diesel motors is prohibited, except in the waterfowl hunting area.

### *Bait*

The use or possession of bait, or hunting over bait is strictly prohibited. Baiting means the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, or scattering of any salt, grain, powder, liquid, or other feed substance to attract game.

### *Firearms*

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuges must comply with all provisions of state and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32).

Carrying, possessing, or discharging of fireworks, or explosives on National Wildlife Refuges is prohibited.

The use or possession of air guns, spears, or similar weapons on National Wildlife Refuges is prohibited.

### *Tree Stands and Tree Steps*

All tree stands must be removed from the refuge daily. The use of screw in tree steps, nails, wire, screws, or bolts to climb a tree or to attach a tree stand to a tree, or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven is prohibited.

### *Tree Marking*

It is prohibited to mark any tree or other refuge feature with paint or similar substance. All flagging tape and other marking materials must be removed at the end of the hunt day.

### *Brush and Tree Removal/Clearing*

The cutting of holes, lanes, or any other manipulation of the vegetation (e.g. cutting of bushes and trees, mowing, herbicide use, and other actions) is strictly prohibited. The possession of saws, machetes, axes or other tools for cutting vegetation is prohibited.

### *Youth Supervision*

An adult hunter 21 years of age or older must remain in sight of and in normal voice contact with all youth hunters 15 years of age or younger. One adult hunter may supervise no more than two youth hunters (only one youth hunter may be supervised during big game hunting activities). During youth-only hunts, the youth must be

supervised by a non-hunting adult. Hunters under 10-years-old can participate during the statewide youth hunts if accompanied by an adult 21 years of age or older.

### *Nontoxic Shot*

All hunters using shotguns for hunting on Hatchie NWR must use and possess ammunition containing approved non-toxic shot only. The possession of lead shot is prohibited.

### *Hunter Education*

Hunters born after 01/01/69, must possess proof that they have successfully completed a hunter education course. All hunters are encouraged to complete a hunters safety course.

### **Specific Hunting Regulations**

All hunters must possess and carry signed refuge permit (signed refuge brochure). Big game harvested on the refuge must be checked in on the day harvested at the nearest State checking station or on the TWRA website. Hatchie NWR must be specified as the location of harvest and all deer taken on the refuge must be counted toward the Statewide bag limit. Deer harvested during the Quota gun hunt must be checked in at the refuge check station.

Deer gun hunters may possess lead rifled slugs while hunting on the refuge.

Horses, mules, and burros are permitted only on refuge roads open to motorized traffic. We prohibit the use of horses and other animal conveyances from all other areas including fields, woods, waters, foot trails, and service roads/trails.

All hunting is prohibited within 100 yards of the Refuge Headquarters, the disability fishing facilities, and the Wildlife Drive/Auto Tour Road at Oneal Lake.

Signed refuge permits and applicable State licenses are required. Waterfowl hunters that are 16 or older must have a Federal Duck Stamp.

Only species listed in this regulations leaflet as open to hunting may be hunted/harvested on the Refuge.

### *Quota Hunt Application Procedures - Quota Deer Hunt*

To apply for a quota hunt permit, type or plainly print the names, addresses, and phone numbers w/ area code on an official U.S. Postal Service Postcard.

A total of up to 4 hunters may apply on the same postcard. One hunters information on the front of the postcard and up to 3 additional hunters information on the back.

Clearly indicate your hunt choice(s) (i.e. 1st Choice November 7-8 and 2nd Choice November 14-15 or November 7-8 hunt only or November 14-15 hunt only).

Send postcard in an envelope addressed to the Refuge Manager at Hatchie NWR, 6772 Highway 76 South, Stanton, TN 38069.

Applications will be accepted between July 1 and the close of business (4 pm) on July 31. The drawing will be held on August 3, at 9:00 am at the Refuge Office. Applicants are welcome to participate in the public drawing.

Duplicate, incomplete, nonlegible applications and/or on anything other than an official U.S. Postcard will not be considered for the drawing.

Both the youth hunter and his/her supervising adult must apply together on the same postcard to be selected for the quota hunt. If selected, the youth hunter must be under direct supervision by the adult during the hunt.

Only successful applicants will be notified by mail to submit \$12.50 per hunter (money order or cashiers check ONLY), payable to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

All quota permits are nonrefundable and nontransferable.

Only persons drawn for the hunt are allowed to participate in the hunt (No hunt guests are permitted).

### **Deer Gun - Quota Gun Hunt**

#### *Quota Deer Gun - Two Hunts*

Season: November 7-8, and November 14-15, 2015

Bag Limit: two deer. An antlerless deer must be harvested BEFORE an antlered deer.

Harvested deer count as bonus deer.

Quota Permits: Quota hunt, 250 Permits per hunt

All harvested deer must be checked in with the state as harvested on Hatchie NWR..

### **Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Seasons**

#### *Deer Gun - Youth Hunt*

Season: October 24-25, 2015

No Hunter Quota.

Youth 6-16 may participate and must be accompanied by an adult 21 years of age or older.

No more than one youth per adult. Bag Limit: same as State.

## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

### *Deer Archery*

Season: September 26-October 23, 2015 and October 26-November 6, 2015. Area west of Interstate 40- Season: September 26-January 3, 2016, except closed during Youth Gun and Quota Gun Seasons.

No Hunter Quota. Bag Limit: same as State.

Harvested deer count in Statewide Bag Limit.

### *Turkey Hunt*

Turkey and Youth Turkey

Spring Season only. Bag limit is 1 bearded turkey per season and counts in regular season bag limit.

Hunters must check turkey at the nearest checking station or on the TWRA website and record Hatchie NWR as the location of harvest. Hunters must use and possess ammunition containing approved nontoxic shot only. The possession of lead shot is prohibited.

### *Waterfowl*

Ducks, Geese, Coots, and Mergansers may be hunted only on designated areas of Hatchie NWR. All other seasons are closed in this area during waterfowl season. Hunters must use and possess ammunition containing approved non-toxic shot only. The possession of lead shot is prohibited.

Legal shooting hours are 30 minutes before sunrise to 12 noon C.S.T. Hunting is only allowed on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays of the State wood duck/ teal season and regular waterfowl season. Youth Waterfowl Hunting is allowed only on Saturday of the State Youth Waterfowl Season. See Youth Supervision Section regarding supervision requirements.

Hunters may access the refuge no more than two hours before legal sunrise. Only portable blinds may be used. All blinds, boats, and decoys must be removed from the refuge by 1 pm C.S.T. daily.

### *Other Migratory Birds*

Mourning Dove, Woodcock, and Snipe. State seasons and bag limits apply except closed during all refuge deer archery, quota, and youth hunts. Hunters must only use and possess approved nontoxic shot.

### *Small Game - Squirrel/Rabbit/Quail*

State season and bag limits apply except squirrel, rabbit, and quail are closed during the refuge deer archery, quota, and youth hunts and Spring squirrel season is closed. Only approved nontoxic shot is allowed when using a shotgun. See map for areas open to small game hunting.

### *Raccoon and Opossum*

State season and bag limits apply. The refuge is open from legal sunset to one hour before legal sunrise for raccoon and opossum hunting only. The refuge is closed the night before and during any refuge deer archery, quota, and youth hunts. Only approved nontoxic shot is allowed when using a shotgun.

### *Coyote and Beaver*

Coyotes and Beavers may be taken incidentally during scheduled hunts on the refuge. Legal methods of take include legal hunting equipment utilized during specified hunting seasons listed in this brochure. No bag limit.

### *Trapping*

Trapping on Hatchie NWR is prohibited.

### **Specific Fishing Regulations**

Fishing is permitted from legal sunrise to legal sunset (Central Time) on Hatchie NWR (see map for specific locations and dates of closures). Designated areas are closed November 15 - March 15 to provide a sanctuary for waterfowl (see map).

Oneal Lake is open March 16 - May 31 for fishing as Bass Catch and Release Only; and June 1 - November 14, the Creel Limit on Bass is two fish. All pickeral caught must be removed from the lake.

Boats are allowed on refuge lakes 18 feet or less in length.

Nonmotorized boats and boats with electric trolling motors only. The use of gas or diesel motors is prohibited. Refuge boats ramps must be used to launch boats.

Fishing is allowed with pole and line or rod and reel only.

Bow and arrows or a gig may be used to take non-game fish on refuge waters.

Possession of unauthorized fishing gear, including trotlines, limblines, juglines, yo-yo's, nets, spears, and snag hooks is prohibited on Hatchie NWR.

Frogging and turtling on Hatchie NWR is prohibited. Persons must comply with all applicable State fishing and boating regulations while on the refuge. A valid Tennessee State Fishing License is required.



